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16 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, 12 April 1968

1. The Director met with the PFIAB at 1030, 12 April 1968 in room 297 of the Executive Office Building. Present were General Maxwell Taylor, Drs. Land, Baker and Langer, Ambassador Murphy, Admiral Sides and Mr. Gray. Messrs. Coyne and Ash and the undersigned were also present. General Robert Taylor attended for the first item and Drs. Hornig and Steininger were present for items 1 and 2.

25X1D 2. Before the meeting was formally convened, the Chairman told the Director that General Carter had raised the question of the need for additional aircraft [REDACTED] in South Vietnam. Both the DCI and the Chairman were under the impression that this matter had been satisfactorily settled by the JCS but the DCI undertook to look into it.

3. The Chairman also asked about the impact of the proposed reduction of overseas personnel on intelligence programs. He wanted to know whether the DCI was going to act for the community as a whole, particularly in connection with the review of the need for personnel to support SIGINT activities overseas. The Director said that he was and referred to his recent letter to Mr. Nitze on the subject.

4. The meeting then opened with a discussion of the information handling problem. The Director summarized the contents of a proposed memorandum to the President in response to NSAM 368. The proposed memorandum itself with attachments had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were available to individual members.

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5. General Robert Taylor then undertook a brief description of the status of individual projects and programs. He identified mid 1972 as the target date for completion of the over-all program. He described the programs in individual agencies, all of which he characterized as progressing satisfactorily with the exception of the State Department. The State Department, he said, needs help in connection with its budget because of the trouble which it has traditionally had with the Appropriations Committee. Some discussion followed about various approaches to the problem of funding these programs and particularly community programs. It was recognized at some point that an approach would have to be made to the Bureau of the Budget and some device for providing funds to support community-wide facilities would have to be worked out. At the moment the Bureau of the Budget is somewhat schizophrenic on the subject. It is in favor of enhanced information handling capabilities but is reluctant to enforce expenditures or resources.

6. Dr. Baker expressed himself as reassured by the report. He was pleased with the restructuring of the community. He likes the new information committee. He had been somewhat concerned by what he conceived to be a slow-down in the Defense Department in work on experimental new systems. On the other hand, he said that things were going as well as they could. He expressed himself as heartened by progress made in educating personnel in the techniques and procedures involved in modern information handling systems. He thought that the projects for the establishment of an effective community-wide system were excellent. In response to a question from Dr. Langer, General Taylor said that he thought by 1972 the U.S. intelligence information handling system would be the largest in the world, and Dr. Baker interjected the thought that it might be the best.

7. Dr. Hornig remarked that he did not like the committee approach to the problem and suggested that specific dates for the accomplishments of various phases of the programs should be established. Comments from the Director, Dr. Baker and others appeared to dispose of Dr. Hornig's reservations, at least for the moment.

8. The Chairman concluded discussion of this agenda item by saying that he would like to receive progress reports from time to time on accomplishments which the Director undertook to provide. The Chairman also volunteered to help in any way that seemed appropriate.

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9. The status of the OXCART aircraft was then discussed. The Director said that we had only just received a paper from Dr. Flax describing four alternative solutions to the long-term OXCART program. He said that these would be discussed in the Executive Committee of the NRO in the very near future. He will advise the Board of the outcome.

10. Dr. Land noted his concern about the possibility of losing the OXCART capability. He characterized the history of reconnaissance over the past 15 years as a tremendous achievement and stressed the importance he attached to retention of an autonomous reconnaissance capability. He pointed out that this capability now represents a national asset based on 15 years of experience.

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11. The DCI said that in his judgment the best solution was to keep the OXCART [REDACTED]. Obviously the problem is the question of money and other alternatives have been presented. He felt that there was no use in troubling the Board with the details of these alternatives but said that they would be examined in detail in the Executive Committee of the NRO prior to any final recommendations. He also stressed the importance which he attached [REDACTED] be preserved and referred to the recent use of the area for the purpose of technical analysis [REDACTED] 25X1C

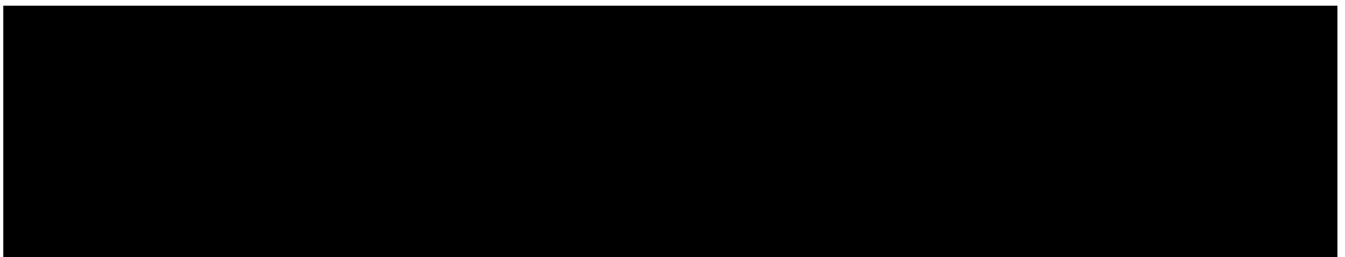
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12. Some discussion followed concerning the desirability of keeping the OXCART in the Far East until satisfactory evidence is obtained about the adequacy of the SR-71 as a replacement. (After consultation with Dr. Flax and Mr. Duckett, I advised the Board via [REDACTED] 25X1A that the OXCART will not be withdrawn from [REDACTED] until specific approval by the Executive Committee of the NRO.) 25X1A

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13. It was left that the Director would advise the Chairman of the results of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the NRO at which the various alternatives for the future of the OXCART are discussed.

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15. The Director is having the production from the various collection facilities [REDACTED] analyzed and evaluated. He pointed out that there is a split in the community with CIA and State attaching a considerably lower value to this product than does the Department of Defense. Dr. Land wanted to know more about the basis of this split. The Director said that it was the age old problem of establishing anything like a precise value for intelligence data. This is a problem in assessing the importance to be attached to the [REDACTED]. It is equally a problem in determining the value of satellite SIGINT systems. The Director is trying to work out better ways for establishing the value of such activities. He felt that we had made tremendous progress in getting our arms around the problem but there is still much to be done.

16. The Director then identified a number of operational incidents or achievements which he thought might interest the Board. He referred specifically to work done in identifying and exposing forgeries perpetrated by the Communists in various areas. He described the role

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17. The Chairman wanted to know whether we were having trouble in recruiting. The Director said that we were so far experiencing no difficulty in recruiting people of an appropriate caliber. Apparently some concern on this score had been expressed by members of Mr. Dillon's study group in the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

18. Ambassador Murphy asked what we knew about the financing of Ramparts, and the Director said that there was no evidence of foreign or Communist support.

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